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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/100,133	06/19/1998	DOUGLAS W. CONMY	52817.000013	8229

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EXAMINER

MEINECKE DIAZ, SUSANNA M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2163

DATE MAILED: 01/22/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/100,133

Applicant(s)

CONMY ET AL.

Examiner

Susanna M. Diaz

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 December 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 22. 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submissions filed on November 6, 2001 and December 10, 2001 have been entered.

Claims 1-30 are pending.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 3-5, 7-16, and 20 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 3, line 1, insert --one or more-- between "the" and "resources"

Claim 4, line 1, insert --one or more-- between "the" and "resources"

Claim 5, line 6, insert --one or more-- between "the" and "servers"

Claim 5, line 15, delete " ; "

Claim 7, line 9, delete "process", insert --processor--

Claim 8, line 3, insert --one or more-- between "the" and "resources"

Claim 9, line 1, insert --one or more-- between "the" and "resources"

Claim 10, line 1, insert --one or more-- between "the" and "resources"

Claim 11, line 3, insert --one or more-- between "the" and "resources"

Claim 12, line 1, insert --one or more-- between "the" and "resources"

Claim 13, line 1, insert --one or more-- between "the" and "resources"

Claim 14, line 3, insert --one or more-- between "the" and "resources"

Claim 15, line 1, insert --one or more-- between "the" and "resources"

Claim 16, line 1, insert --one or more-- between "the" and "resources"

Claim 20, line 1, insert --or-- after "one"

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 3, 4, 7, 14-16, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 3 recites the limitation "the room" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. For examination purposes, "the room" will be interpreted as "the rooms." Furthermore, claim 4 is dependent from claim 3 and thereby inherits the same rejection.

Claim 7 recites the limitation "the electronic mail address" in line 6. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. For examination purposes, "the electronic mail address" will be interpreted as "an electronic mail address." Furthermore, claims 14-16 are dependent from claim 7 and thereby inherit the same rejection.

Claim 30 recites a computer program product that is dependent from a method claim. Each claim should be limited to one statutory class; therefore, it is recommended that claim 30 be rewritten as an independent claim, incorporating all of the corresponding limitations of claim 26 in the format of a computer program product claim.

Appropriate correction is required.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-30 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

7. Claims 1-20, 23, 25-27, 29, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Microsoft Outlook 97, as disclosed in the book, The ABCs of Outlook 97, the article, "The Future is Bright for Microsoft Outlook 97," and the book entitled Running Microsoft Outlook 97. The ABCs of Outlook 97 was published on March 17, 1997 (according to the Library of Congress Copyright web site) and discloses many of the details of Microsoft Outlook 97's scheduling functions. The article, "The Future is Bright for Microsoft Outlook 97," makes reference to Microsoft Outlook 97's scheduling

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functions as early as November 1, 1996, thereby providing evidence that Microsoft Outlook 97 dates back as far as November 1, 1996. Running Microsoft Outlook 97 (Chapter 8 in particular) reiterates the disclosure found in The ABCs of Outlook 97 while providing more easily readable evidence of the graphical interface of Microsoft Outlook 97 corresponding to the functions disclosed in The ABCs of Outlook 97.

Microsoft Outlook 97 discloses a system for scheduling time intervals for a plurality of invitees comprising:

[Claim 1] database means in communication with one or more server means for storing one or more invitee profiles for one or more potential invitees of the system, the one or more invitee profiles comprising user profiles wherein each user profile comprises information regarding available and unavailable times for that user and an electronic mail address for the user (The ABCs of Outlook 97: pages 10-3 through 10-8 -- The schedules, i.e., part of the profiles, of potential attendees may be displayed to a meeting coordinator in order to assist in setting up a good meeting time);

request generating means, connected over a network to the one or more server means, for generating a request for allocation of a time interval for the one or more potential invitees (The ABCs of Outlook 97: pages 10-3 through 10-8 -- The meeting coordinator sends out meeting invitations to the potential attendees);

busy time determination means for gathering the one or more invitee profiles for the one or more potential invitees that were requested by the request generating means and that are available in the database means and determining whether those one or

more potential invitees are available during the time interval requested by the request generating means (The ABCs of Outlook 97: pages 10-7 through 10-8 -- Outlook can be set up to automatically accept or decline a meeting invitation based on a potential invitee's availability. This function can be carried out manually as well); and

means for scheduling a meeting by using the electronic mail address in the invitee profile to send each of the one or more potential invitees available an invitation to attend at the time interval requested thereby making each of the one or more potential invitees an invitee (The ABCs of Outlook 97: pages 10-3 through 10-8 -- The meeting coordinator sends out meeting invitations to the potential attendees);

automatically updating the invitee's invitee profile based on the invitee's response to the invitation (The ABCs of Outlook 97: pages 10-7 through 10-8 -- If a meeting invitation is accepted, the meeting is automatically added to the invitee's schedule);

[Claim 2] wherein the invitee profiles comprise resource profiles regarding one or more resources wherein each resources profile comprises information regarding available and unavailable times for the resource (The ABCs of Outlook 97: pages 10-5 through 10-6);

[Claim 3] wherein the resources include rooms and wherein the profile comprises information about the capacity of the room (The ABCs of Outlook 97: page 10-6 -- Room capacity may be stored in notes corresponding to the rooms. Such notes serve as part of the room's profile);

[Claim 4] wherein the resources include equipment (The ABCs of Outlook 97: page 10-5).

Microsoft Outlook 97 discloses a system for scheduling time intervals for a plurality of invitees comprising:

[Claim 5] one or more databases, in communication with one or more servers, which store one or more invitee profiles for one or more potential invitees of the system, the one or more invitee profiles comprising user profiles wherein each user profile comprises information regarding available and unavailable times for that user and an electronic mail address for the user (The ABCs of Outlook 97: pages 10-3 through 10-8 -- The schedules, i.e., part of the profiles, of potential attendees may be displayed to a meeting coordinator in order to assist in setting up a good meeting time);

one or more user workstations, connected over a network to the servers, operating a calendaring system that permits a user to request allocation of a time interval for the one or more potential invitees (The ABCs of Outlook 97: pages 10-3 through 10-8 -- The meeting coordinator sends out meeting invitations to the potential attendees);

wherein the calendaring system gathers the profiles for the one or more potential invitees that are available in the one or more databases and determines whether those one or more potential invitees are available during the time interval requested (The ABCs of Outlook 97: pages 10-7 through 10-8 -- Outlook can be set up to automatically

accept or decline a meeting invitation based on a potential invitee's availability. This function can be carried out manually as well); and

wherein the calendaring system invites the one or more potential invitees by using the electronic mail address stored in the invitee profile for the one or more potential invitees to send an invitation to the one or more potential invitees thereby making each of the one or more potential invitees an invitee (The ABCs of Outlook 97: pages 10-3 through 10-8 -- The meeting coordinator sends out meeting invitations to the potential attendees) and automatically updates the invitee's invitee profile based on the invitee's response to the invitation (The ABCs of Outlook 97: pages 10-7 through 10-8 -- If a meeting invitation is accepted, the meeting is automatically added to the invitee's schedule);

[Claim 8] wherein the invitee profiles comprise resource profiles regarding one or more resources wherein each resource profile comprises information regarding available and unavailable times for the resource (The ABCs of Outlook 97: pages 10-5 through 10-6);

[Claim 9] wherein the resources include rooms and wherein the profile comprises information about the capacity of the room (The ABCs of Outlook 97: page 10-6 -- Room capacity may be stored in notes corresponding to the respective room. Such notes serve as part of the room's profile);

[Claim 10] wherein the resources include equipment (The ABCs of Outlook 97: page 10-5).

Microsoft Outlook 97 discloses a process for scheduling time intervals for a plurality of invitees comprising:

[Claim 6] storing one or more invitee profiles for one or more potential invitees of the system in a database in communication with one or more servers, the one or more invitee profiles comprising user profiles wherein each user profile comprises information regarding available and unavailable times for that user and an electronic mail address for the user (The ABCs of Outlook 97: pages 10-3 through 10-8 -- The schedules, i.e., part of the profiles, of potential attendees may be displayed to a meeting coordinator in order to assist in setting up a good meeting time);

receiving a request for allocation of a time interval for the one or more potential invitees from a remote workstation over a network at one or more servers (The ABCs of Outlook 97: pages 10-3 through 10-8 -- The meeting coordinator sends out meeting invitations to the potential attendees);

gathering the profiles for the one or more potential invitees that are available in the database (The ABCs of Outlook 97: pages 10-7 through 10-8 -- Outlook can be set up to automatically accept or decline a meeting invitation. This function can be carried out manually as well);

determining whether those one or more potential invitees are available during the time interval requested (The ABCs of Outlook 97: pages 10-7 through 10-8 -- Outlook can be set up to automatically accept or decline a meeting invitation based on a potential invitee's availability. This function can be carried out manually as well); and

inviting the one or more potential invitees to attend at the time interval requested by using the electronic mail address stored in the profile for those one or more potential invitees to send an invitation to the one or more potential invitees thereby making each of the one or more potential invitees an invitee (The ABCs of Outlook 97: pages 10-3 through 10-8 -- The meeting coordinator sends out meeting invitations to the potential attendees); and

automatically updating the invitee's invitee profile based on the invitee's response to the invitation (The ABCs of Outlook 97: pages 10-7 through 10-8 -- If a meeting invitation is accepted, the meeting is automatically added to the invitee's schedule);

[Claim 11] wherein the invitee profiles comprise resource profiles regarding one or more resources, wherein each resources profile comprises information regarding available and unavailable times for the resources (The ABCs of Outlook 97: pages 10-5 through 10-6);

[Claim 12] wherein the resources include rooms and wherein the profile comprises information about the capacity of the rooms (The ABCs of Outlook 97: page 10-6 -- Room capacity may be stored in notes corresponding to the respective room. Such notes serve as part of the room's profile);

[Claim 13] wherein the resources include equipment (The ABCs of Outlook 97: page 10-5).

Microsoft Outlook 97 discloses a processor usable medium having processor readable code embodied therein for enabling group calendaring between a plurality of users on a computer system, the system comprising a database, associated with one or more servers, which stores one or more invitee profiles for one or more potential invitees of the system, the invitee profiles comprising user profiles wherein each user profile comprises information regarding available and unavailable times for that user and an electronic mail address for the user (The ABCs of Outlook 97: pages 10-3 through 10-8 -- The schedules, i.e., part of the profiles, of potential attendees may be displayed to a meeting coordinator in order to assist in setting up a good meeting time), the processor readable code in the processor usable medium comprising:

[Claim 7] processor readable code for causing a processor to receive a request for allocation of a time interval for one or more potential invitees (The ABCs of Outlook 97: pages 10-3 through 10-8 -- The meeting coordinator sends out meeting invitations to the potential attendees);

processor readable code for causing a processor to gather the profiles for the one or more potential invitees (The ABCs of Outlook 97: pages 10-7 through 10-8 -- Outlook can be set up to automatically accept or decline a meeting invitation. This function can be carried out manually as well);

processor readable code for causing a processor to determine whether those one or more potential invitees are available during the requested time interval (The ABCs of Outlook 97: pages 10-7 through 10-8 -- Outlook can be set up to automatically

accept or decline a meeting invitation based on a potential invitee's availability. This function can be carried out manually as well); and

processor readable code for causing a processor to invite the one or more potential invitees to attend a meeting at the requested time interval by using the electronic mail address stored in the profile for each invitee to send an invitation to the one or more potential invitees thereby making each of the one or more potential invitees an invitee (The ABCs of Outlook 97: pages 10-3 through 10-8 -- The meeting coordinator sends out meeting invitations to the potential attendees); and

automatically updating the invitee's invitee profile based on the invitee's response to the invitation (The ABCs of Outlook 97: pages 10-7 through 10-8 -- If a meeting invitation is accepted, the meeting is automatically added to the invitee's schedule);

[Claim 14] wherein the invitee profiles comprise resource profiles regarding one or more resources, wherein each resource profile comprises information regarding available and unavailable times for the resources (The ABCs of Outlook 97: pages 10-5 through 10-6);

[Claim 15] wherein the resources include rooms and wherein the profile comprises information about the capacity of the rooms (The ABCs of Outlook 97: page 10-6 -- Room capacity may be stored in notes corresponding to the respective room. Such notes serve as part of the room's profile);

[Claim 16] wherein the resources include equipment (The ABCs of Outlook 97: page 10-5).

Microsoft Outlook 97 discloses a system for scheduling an event, comprising:
[Claim 17] a database that stores availability information for one or more potential invitees to the event;

a server operable to access the database and retrieve the available information;

a user system operable to send to the server a scheduling request specifying a list of invitees, a date, a start time, and an end time and/or a duration which determines the end time, wherein

the server is further operable to:

receive the scheduling request;

retrieve from the database availability information for one or more of the invitees listed in the request;

determine whether or not the one or more invitees are available to attend the event based on the availability information;

send an invitation to one or more of the invitees listed in the request;

receive from an invitee a response to the invitation; and

automatically modify the availability information for the invitee if the invitee's response indicates that the invitee accepts the invitation, wherein the availability information is modified to indicate that the invitee is busy between at least the start time and end time on the date specified in the request (The ABCs of Outlook 97: pages 10-3 through 10-8 -- Please refer to the rejection of claims 1-16 above for a more detailed explanation);

[Claim 18] wherein the server determines whether or not the one or more invitees are available to attend the event by examining the availability information and determining whether or not the one or more invitees are busy between the start time and end time on the date specified in the scheduling request (The ABCs of Outlook 97: page 10-5);

[Claim 19] wherein the server is further operable to determine one or more alternative start times for the event, wherein the determination is based, at least in part, on the retrieved availability information (The ABCs of Outlook 97: page 10-5);

[Claim 20] wherein the determination of the one or more alternative start times is further based on weighting values assigned to one or more of the invitees (The ABCs of Outlook 97: pages 10-3 and 10-5 -- Potential attendees are labeled by the meeting coordinator as either required or optional attendees. Alternative meeting dates and times may be selected based on the next available time common to all attendees, i.e., both required and optional attendees, or the next available time common only to all required attendees. A higher weighting value is inherently associated with the required attendees than with the optional ones);

[Claim 23] wherein availability information for an invitee comprises profile information and calendar information (The ABCs of Outlook 97: pages 10-5 through 10-8);

[Claim 25] wherein the calendar information comprises information regarding events that have been scheduled for the invitee (The ABCs of Outlook 97: pages 10-7 through 10-8).

Microsoft Outlook 97 discloses a method for scheduling an event, comprising:

[Claim 26] storing availability information for one or more potential invitees to the event;

receiving from an event coordinator a scheduling request specifying a list of invitees, a date, a start time, and an end time and/or a duration which determines the end time;

retrieving availability information for one or more of the invitees listed in the request in response to receiving the request;

presenting to the event coordinator information from which the event coordinator can determine whether or not the one or more invitees are available to attend the event;

sending an invitation to one or more of the invitees listed in the request;

receiving from an invitee a response to the invitation; and

automatically modifying the availability information for the invitee in response to receiving the invitee's response if the invitee's response indicates that the invitee accepts the invitation, wherein the availability information is modified to indicate that the invitee is busy between at least the start time and end time on the date specified in the request (The ABCs of Outlook 97: pages 10-3 through 10-8 -- Please refer to the rejection of claims 1-16 above for a more detailed explanation);

[Claim 27] wherein availability information for an invitee comprises profile information and calendar information (The ABCs of Outlook 97: pages 10-5 through 10-8);

[Claim 29] wherein the calendar information comprises information regarding events that have been scheduled for the invitee (The ABCs of Outlook 97: pages 10-7 through 10-8).

[Claim 30] Microsoft Outlook 97 discloses a computer readable medium, having encoded thereon a computer program operative to perform the method of claim 26 (The ABCs of Outlook 97: pages 10-3 through 10-8 -- Please refer to the rejection of claims 1-16 above for a more detailed explanation).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 21, 22, 24, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Microsoft Outlook 97, as disclosed in the book, The ABCs of Outlook 97, the article, "The Future is Bright for Microsoft Outlook 97," and the book entitled Running Microsoft Outlook 97, as applied to claims 17 and 27 above, and further in view of Tognazzini (U.S. Patent No. 5,790,974).

Microsoft Outlook 97 does not explicitly take invitee and event location into account in order to determine invitee availability for a particular event; however, Tognazzini makes up for this deficiency. Tognazzini teaches an automated scheduling system which takes into account event location and invitee location in order to determine if the invitee can feasibly attend the event in question (e.g., based on travel time). There may be a periodic real-time check to see where the invitee is presently located and then if the invitee can arrive at his/her next planned event in time, based on

a real-time determination of travel time to the next scheduled event. An alert is provided if the invitee is running late or stuck in traffic and cannot make his/her next scheduled event in time. Also, travel time is taken into account when determining an invitee's ability to attend a future event (column 7, lines 11-66). This consideration of travel time between locations and events helps alleviate any conflicts in scheduling that would otherwise arise due to failure to take into account the reality that travel time is needed to get from one location to another. Therefore, the Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to implement Tognazzini's consideration of event location and invitee location, including travel time, when determining invitee availability (as per claims 21 and 22) with Microsoft Outlook 97 in order to provide for more accurate and realistic assessment of the availability of all invitees when planning an event. For example, if one of the invitees is listed as available for a meeting at 2 p.m. E.S.T. on a particular day in Washington, D.C., but the invitee is out in San Francisco for a meeting which runs from 12 to 1 p.m. E.S.T. (9 to 10 a.m. P.S.T.), obviously the invitee cannot likely fly back to make the meeting in Washington, D.C. within an hour. The integration of Tognazzini's scheduling features enables Microsoft Outlook 97 to take such location considerations into account, thereby resulting in more "intelligent" scheduling decisions being made by Microsoft Outlook 97 as part of its automatic scheduling features.

Regarding claims 24 and 28, Microsoft Outlook 97 discloses profile information for an invitee comprising information regarding the invitee's work hours (The ABCs of Outlook 97: page 8-4) and the time zone in which the invitee works (The ABCs of

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Outlook 97: page 8-4); however, Microsoft Outlook 97 does not explicitly teach the inclusion of the location where the invitee works in the invitee's profile. In light of the rejection of claims 21 and 22 immediately above, the Microsoft Outlook 97-Tognazzini combination would inherently include information about where the invitee works in the invitee's profile in order to use this location information when appropriate for determining travel time between different event locations.

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure.

"Automatic Calendar Update with User's Location Information" -- Discloses a mechanism which allows a user to remotely update his/her current location in order to reflect such information in his/her calendar so that co-workers can access this availability information.

"Using Scheduler+ 95" -- Discloses the features of Microsoft's Scheduler+ 95 program, which is the precursor to the calendar and scheduling features of Microsoft Outlook 97.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Susanna M. Diaz whose telephone number is (703) 305-1337. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9 am - 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on (703) 305-9643. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-7239 for Official communications, (703) 746-7240 for Non-Official communications, and (703) 746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900 or to the Customer Service Office on (703) 306-5631.

SMD
January 17, 2002



TARIQ R. HAFIZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100